

Borough of Washington, Warren County, New Jersey
Recreation Commission Meeting Minutes
June 6, 2018 - 7:30 PM

The Meeting of the Recreation Commission of the Borough of Washington, Warren County, New Jersey was held in the Council Chambers of Borough Hall at 7:30 p.m.

Opening 7:37 p.m.

Flag Salute

Statement of Adequate Notice

- Chairperson Rick Feldman read the following Statement into the Record: “The requirements of the ‘Open Public Meetings Law, 1975, Chapter 231’ have been satisfied in that adequate notice of this meeting has been published in the Star Gazette and posted on the Bulletin Board of Borough Hall stating the time, place and purpose of the meeting as required by law.”

Roll Call

- Present: Daniel Almind, Sean Farrington, Rick Feldman, Mark Garrison, Craig Geller, Joe Pinto. Also present: Gary Masenior, Recreation Director, Robin Klimko, Council Liaison, and Susan Turner, Recreation Secretary.

Audience Participation

- Craig Geller moved to open the audience participation portion of the meeting. Seconded by Sean Farrington. Ayes: 6 Nays: 0 Absent: 3, Abstain: 0. Motion passed. Audience participation portion opened.
- Washington Borough Manager Matthew Hall approached the podium. Matt wanted to address some misinformation regarding the pool and its opening date and the swim team. He sent an email yesterday (attached) explaining the many reasons the pool opening has been delayed. His email also noted that the swim team is now a Borough run program and he does not think it necessary to rent time at Belvidere pool. Gary, the park maintenance worker and Borough DPW have been working very hard to address everything required to open the pool and they are moving along well. Joe Pinto stated that he was told the pool would be open for the swim team practice on or about June 4. Gary said the pool would open when it is safe to do so. Since the weather has been so bad, 39 out of last 45 days have had rain, and the winter weather delayed removing the pool cover, the entire time line for repairs and chemicals and equipment is extremely delayed. Gary did note that he had told the Recreation Chairperson a week ago that the pool would not be open this week. Gary said after the pool is filled at least 5 days are needed to add and balance the chemicals properly. Then the water is tested and then the pumps and chemical injectors and computer controls are turned on. Gary said the pump worked on the wading pool and splash pad. He should know in a week when we can open. Regarding the swim team Matt said not requiring the participants to be members of the pool resulted in a deficit of \$3,500. Rick Feldman said this could be accounted for in the Recreation budget. Regarding budget numbers Gary noted that the swim team coach payroll was budgeted at \$1,800 but Joe Pinto told her she would earn a salary of \$2,000, combined with the other budgeted items totals \$6,650. Revenue received so far is \$2,115. Matt said those costs could possibly be offset with more swimmers but it hasn't happened this year. He feels a program with a deficit of that size should not be run.
- Rita Grande, Washington Borough Girls Softball Coach approached the podium. Rita discussed the Girls Softball Summer Skills Clinic introduced at an earlier meeting. She has commitment from 7 people to coach with 2 others who will help. Through discussion it was decided girls from the Warren Hills sending district will be able to participate and participants will be capped at 50. Rita volunteered to hand out/hang fliers. The commission will provide drinks, ice pops, t shirts and small novelties for water themed practices.

- Dan Almind moved to close the audience participation portion. Seconded by Sean Farrington. Ayes: 6 Nays: 0 Absent: 3 Abstain: 0. Motion passed. Audience participation closed.

New Business:

- Girls Softball Clinic – Rick said it seems all the commissioners are in favor of holding the clinic. Discussion was held to determine the per participant registration fee to be charged. Mark Garrison moved to charge \$65 registration fee per participant. Seconded by Dan Almind. Ayes: 6, Nays: 0, Abstain: 0, Absent: 3. Motion passed. Susan will advise Rita of registration fee.
- Bylaws & Code Book information – Rick asked that these be provided to each commissioner so they could better understand how the commission operates. He asked if we need official Recreation Commission bylaws if everything the commission does is statute required and a copy of Roberts Rules of Order is kept in the Council Chambers for reference. Rick noted there is one commissioner who has missed quite a few meetings. Rick wants to talk with this person about his/her intentions.
- Pavilion Plaque – this will be discussed at the next meeting.
- Pavilion rental fee – Head Start – Head Start will be holding their end of year picnic at the pavilion and have requested a waiver of the \$25 pavilion rental fee. It was asked if the commission has waived the fee for other groups. Susan said no, but no other groups have asked. Sean Farrington moved to waive the \$25 pavilion rental fee for Head Start. Seconded by Dan Almind. Ayes: 6, Nays: 0, Abstain: 0, Absent: 3. Motion passed. Susan will advise Head Start.

Old Business:

- Robin Klimko asked Mayor David Higgins to explain particulars of how the commission works. David explained the commission is an autonomous organization. It cannot purchase land but it controls its own employees and is responsible for its own equipment. One commissioner cannot tell an employee what to do. A majority vote of the commission decides that. The commission oversees the Recreation Director. The Director is responsible for advising the commission about ongoing and potential programs, equipment and situations. He should inform them of the adverse effects of something or if it is potentially illegal or could cause harm. If the commission disagrees with the Director they would vote. If their vote contradicts the Directors advice he would still have to carry it out. But David would not recommend taking a motion to make the Director do something he advises against. Rick asked for information regarding the budget process. David explained the Recreation budget is put together by the Director with information from the commissioners. The final Recreation budget is approved by majority voted of the commission and then given to the Borough Manager. The Manager can submit the budget to the Borough Council as received or he can request changes to budget items or dollar amounts. David said the expected revenue from sports programs and events along with the Council contribution should make up the total budget. The Trust fund should only be used to augment the budget. It should only be “dipped into” if the commission goes over budget. Gary asked if the bank account goes down to zero dollars does the Recreation Department have to shut down? David said yes. Questions regarding signs at the park and temporary lawn signs were raised. For permanent signs at the park the existing Borough sign ordinance could be amended to include sponsor signs. Temporary lawn signs are allowed.

Adjournment

- Mark Garrison moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:25 pm. Seconded by Sean Farrington. Ayes: 6 Nays: 0 Absent: 3, Abstain: 0. Motion passed.
Adjourn **9:25 PM**